

The Watergate Caper 7/21/72 CONFIDENTIAL Harold Weisberg

Because of the nature of my sources and the desire and hope to carry aspects forward on my own, I have to request that you regard what follows as strictly confidential and provided for information, understands and any feedback that seems appropriate.

~~Mullen~~ ^{Mullen} has a Key Biscayne home "across the street from Nixon's". In the doublespeak of the FBI, this is a source in a position to know who has provided thoroughly dependable information in the past and none of any other character.

Unless otherwise indicated, the sources are thoroughly dependable, know to me from the past, and in all cases in a position to know. I am not indicating the number of sources.

When one phones the listed number of the ~~Bennett~~ ^{Mullen} agency, the phone does not ring there. All calls on their PBX, and they have a PBX, are intercepted by an agency, private, selected by ~~Bennett~~ ^{Mullen}. To make this more comprehensible, it is as though an answering service took all calls, whether or not anyone was in the ~~Bennett~~ ^{Mullen} office, acts as the ~~Bennett~~ ^{Mullen} switchboard operator and puts the call through or gives a message given to it to give. This is not new, has been going on for years, and is now current. It was true today, that is. I don't know why nor was my source able to be helpful along this line. It seems to me to be quite exceptional, particularly for a p.r. agency.

But, then it should be apparent than an agency run by a man who my source says is a neighbor of the President (but neglected to say is also a neighbor of Bebe Rebozo's) is not per se an ordinary if, indeed, orthodox, p.r. agency. So much for the story that Hunt was essential in getting Julie Nixon Eisenhower to act as a necessary intermediary, with all his ~~shazzy~~ ^{shazzy} White House connections, like Colson, to get Julie Nixon Eisenhower, the "teacher" image (from two days of teaching experience!) to perform in an HEW commercial, for which \$100,000 to ~~Bennett~~ ^{Mullen}. Would I be regarded as exceptionally suspicious if I suggest that this means the agency is getting taxpayers money for non-taxpayers services to other than the federal government. Like, say, a political party or candidate? I think a straight reporter's inquiry into the contracts would be worthwhile. (The Post seems to be inactive on the story and the key man on it has other assignments keeping him rather busy).

And it might be remembered that the story is that "Rebozo made the property-purchase arrangements for his friend the President. Would this possibly include somebody's friend ~~Mullen~~ ^{Mullen}? Isn't it the story that the government bought up three other properties for work and security reasons? Does that not make ~~Mullen~~ ^{Mullen} Bennett's ownership more exceptional?

From about 1965 to sometime in about 1969, Hunt, under the name Dietrick, gave as a Washington office address The Washington Bldg. I expect John Woodward to follow this lead for the spot with building management/ownership for I am confident Hunt then neither had nor needed a real office there. However, there is an organization there that has and supplies desk space. Their current and available records go back to a point in 1969 I could not identify. To that date they did not have Hunt as a client under his correct name, any of his ~~known~~ ^{known} aliases or his mother's maiden name. Ditto for Littauer & Wilkinson. It coincides with Hunt's termination of claimed connection with L&W from Who's Who. It may coincide with the end of that agency, at least under that name and ownership.

For soup this thick a fork would serve. I suggest that "on Ziegler's announcement/pronouncement a little less placid than most may have been because he was a mite shaken by what he didn't say in his one-time comment on behalf of the President.

And for those of Duncan Ockie interests, Hil says that as of the time she lived at Potomac, the Potomac postoffice was actually Rockville, with Potomac a rural route out of the Rockville post office. Hunt lives in Potomac, which is quite close to Rockville. When I can I'll see if this is true today. Whether or not it is still true, most of Potomac is probably no more than 10 minutes from the Rockville post office and closer to the closest mail box. Rockville is the county seat and the largest post office between Washington and here, probably larger than here in ~~both~~ ^{both} size, people served and volume of mail handled.

Too bad we had 95° heat, 100% humidity and a pollution alert or I might have learned more.